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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted during 1979 to determine the interest in women's sports of Virginia Polytechnic Institute undergraduate students. The questionnaire contained three main parts. The first part, designed to be answered by both males and females, inquired about attending women's sporting events. Students were asked to check which women's sports they would be most and least likely to watch. In part two, females were asked to identify the sports in which they would be most and least likely to participate. The third part asked female students to check the competitive sports in which they had participated during high school or college. The most popular spectator sport identified by both men and women, was gymnastics. Women were most interested in participating in volleyball. Softball was the leading competitive sport in which the women had actually participated. A copy of the questionnaire is appended. (JD)

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Women's Athletics At Colleges and Universities

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Abstract

The rapid growth of women's participation in college sports along with a new interpretation of Title IX as it applies to intercollegiate athletics have colleges and universities throughout the country reviewing their women's athletic programs. Questions still abound over how institutions of higher education are to comply with Title IX with respect to athletics. Institutional researchers may be asked to assist their institutions in determining the desirability of various alternatives for strengthening the women's athletic program. This paper presents a brief history of the intercollegiate athletic aspect of Title IX and shows as appendices two institutional research studies that have assisted administrators and the athletic association in a review of women's athletics at Virginia Tech.

Background

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 provides that

> No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance . . . . (Education Amendments, 1972)

During the seven years since this amendment became law, the most controversy has come as a result of its application to athletics in colleges and secondary schools. The first regulations with regard to intercollegiate athletics were issued in May 1975, and called for "equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes." (Flygare, 1979, p. 529) In September 1975, the memorandum "Elimination of Sex Discrimination in Athletic Programs" was issued by HEW in an attempt to clarify the Title IX athletic regulations. (Flygare, 1979, p. 529)

With women's participation in college sports more than doubling in the past decade (Underwood, 1979, p. 18), and with the push for more facilities, more coaches, and more funding for women's athletic programs, confusion abounds in colleges and universities across the country as they attempt to comply with Title IX. Again, in an effort to accommodate these concerns, HEW, in December 1978, superseded its earlier clarifications with a new proposed policy interpretation titled "Title IX and Intercollegiate Athletics; Nondiscrimination on The Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefitting from Federal Financial Assistance." Public comments on the proposed interpretations were solicited and by Spring 1979, the Office

of Civil Rights had received nearly 700 responses to its request. (Fields, March 1979, p. 4) Criticism of the proposal has come from many sources including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (N.C.A.A.), individual colleges and universities, and even from the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (A.I.A.W.). One recent criticism has been a letter signed by the presidents of 50 colleges and universities asking HEW to withdraw the controversial proposal and allow individual institutions to assess their own athletic programs and develop individual plans for insuring nondiscrimination in athletics. (Fields, June 1979, p. 12)

Surveys and Results

Because of the rapid growth of women's athletic programs and in order to comply with Title IX, many colleges and universities are currently assessing their women's athletic programs. Two studies have been conducted by the Office of Institutional Research at Virginia Tech to help with the evaluation of the women's athletic program.

The first study conducted was a questionnaire sent to women's athletic directors of 19 institutions in Virginia and bordering states. Twelve athletic directors responded. Information was gathered on the organization and administration of women's athletic programs, number of and responsibilities of the coaches of women's sports, types of sports activities, and financial data. The athletic directors were also asked to comment on their institution's activities as they related to the implementation of Title IX and women's athletics. A copy of the questionnaire is presented as Appendix A. A questionnaire such as this may be used to gather data from comparable institutions for evaluation of a women's athletic program. The individual

responses of the athletic directors and a summary report prepared by the Office of Institutional Research are being used by the administration, a faculty committee, and by the athletic association as an aid in evaluating Virginia Tech's women's athletic program.

The second study on the topic of women's athletics conducted by OIR was a survey of a sample of undergraduate students at Virginia Tech to determine their interest in individual women's sports. The questionnaire and the summary results of this study are reported in Appendix B. The results of this study support previous surveys for the athletic association and are now being used as one guide for evaluation of the interest of Virginia Tech students in women's sports and for development of individual sports programs for women.

References

Education Amendments of 1972, Section 901 (a), 20 U. S. C. Section 1681 (1972).

Fields, Cheryl M., As criticism continues, U. S. prepares final policy on sex-bias in sports. The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 19, 1979, pp. 4-5.

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Flygare, Thomas J., HEW's new guidelines on sex discrimination in collegiate athletics. Phi Delta Kappan, 1979, 60 (7), 529-530.

Underwood, John, An odd way to even things up. Sports Illustrated, February 5, 1979, pp. 18-19.

Appendix A

SURVEY OF WOMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Definitions: Varsity Sport - A sport so designated by the institution and normally having a schedule of competition with other varsity teams. Include junior varsity in varsity.

Club Sport - A sport so designated by the institution and normally having a schedule of competition with other non-varsity teams.

1. Please check the answer that best describes each of the following aspects of the women's athletic program at your institution.

   (a) The official title of the leader of the women's athletic program is

   Director of Athletics _____
   Women's Athletic Director _____
   Assistant Director of Athletics _____
   Department Chairperson _____
   Other (please specify)
   _____ _____

   (b) How long has there been a designated leader of the women's athletic program?

   Less than one year _____
   1 year but less than 3 years _____
   3 years but less than 5 years _____
   5 years but less than 7 years _____
   7 years but less than 9 years _____
   9 years or more _____

   (c) The administrative structure of the women's athletic program is

	For Varsity Sports	For Club Sports
Separate from the men's program	_____	_____
Combined with the men's program	_____	_____

(d) The women's athletic program is affiliated with

	For Varsity Sports	For Club Sports
An athletic association administered independently of the institution	_____	_____
An athletic association administered by the institution	_____	_____
An academic department of the institution (Department:_____	_____	_____
Other (please specify) _____	_____	_____

(e) The women's athletic program is governed by which of the following? (Check all that apply.)

	For Varsity Sports	For Club Sports
AIAW	_____	_____
NCAA	_____	_____
NAIA	_____	_____
Other (please specify)		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. (a) Rank by order of importance the criteria used for giving a sport varsity status. (Begin by giving the most important factor a rank of "1.")

Competition at state level	_____
Competition at regional level	_____
Competition at national level	_____
Interest of students	_____
Availability of facilities	_____
Participation at club sport level	_____
Other (please specify)	
_____	_____
_____	_____

(b) What steps are followed in starting a varsity sport?

3. (a) Varsity Sports.

For the Women's Athletic Director and each coach of women's varsity sports, please indicate the percent of time devoted to each of the following job responsibilities. Include the administrative responsibilities of the Women's Athletic Director in "Other." Also, give the number of sports coached by each coach. (Examples: (1) If a coach is employed part-time by the institution, but the entire job responsibility is coaching, enter 100% in "Coaching Part-Time Employee." (2) If a coach is employed full-time by the institution, with half-time teaching responsibilities, enter 50% in "Coaching Full-Time Employee," and 50% in "Teaching.")

	Coaching		Teaching	Other	Number of Sports Coached
	Full-Time Employee	Part-Time Employee			
Women's Athletic Director					
Current Coaches 1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
Anticipated Additional Coaches of Current Sports					
for 1979-80 1					
2					
for 1980-81 1					
2					
Anticipated Additional Coaches of New Sports					
for 1979-80 1					
2					
for 1980-81 1					
2					

(b) Club Sports.

Please provide the following information for coaches of women's club sports. If a coach of a club sport is a volunteer, please indicate by writing "Volunteer" in the "Other" column and give the number of sports voluntarily coached.

		Coaching		Teaching	Other	Number of Sports Coached
		Full-Time Employee	Part-Time Employee			
Current Coaches	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
	6					
	7					
	8					
Anticipated Additional Coaches of Current and New Sports for 1979-80	1					
	2					
for 1980-81	1					
	2					

4. (a) What sports do you anticipate adding to your women's athletic program in the next three years?

(1) club sports that will become varsity sports

_____ _____

_____ _____

(2) new varsity sports, not presently club sports

_____ _____

_____ _____

(3) new club sports

_____ _____

_____ _____

(b) Please check those changes in the women's varsity athletic program that are planned for

	For Current Sports	For New Sports
(1) next year (1979-80)		
new equipment	_____	_____
more coaches (see question 3.)	_____	_____
more scholarships	_____	_____
other (please specify)		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
(2) the following year (1980-81)		
new equipment	_____	_____
more coaches (see question 3.)	_____	_____
more scholarships	_____	_____
other (please specify)		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Please indicate the types of financial aid that may be awarded to women athletes by giving the approximate full amount that may be awarded per athlete per academic year.

Type of Financial Aid	Approximate Amount Per Athlete Per Academic Year
Tuition	$ _____
Fees	_____
Room	_____
Board	_____
Books (on a loan basis)	_____
Other (please specify)	
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. Do you have specific plans for expanding the women's athletic program in implementing Title IX? If so, please describe.

7. Please complete the following form concerning individual sports at your institution.

FOOTNOTES ON FORM:

(1) If the sport listed is currently a varsity sport, enter the year in which it became a varsity sport in the varsity column. If the varsity sport was previously a club sport, enter the year it was started as a club sport in the club column.

If the sport listed is currently a club sport, enter the year it was started as a club sport in the club column.

Some women's sports have a long history, so if a sport was started before 1965, please enter "pre 65" in the appropriate column.

(2) Enter the number of coaches for 1978-79 in each sport by full-time or part-time and female or male.

SURVEY OF WOMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Enrollment Fall 1978

Total: Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Institution _____ Women: Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Sport	Status and Year[1] Varsity	Club	Number of Coaches[2] Full-time	Part-time	Number of Contests 1978-79 Season	Number of Participants 1978-79	Division As Of September, 1979 (Circle One)
Archery			F / M	F / M			I II III
Badminton			F / M	F / M			I II III
Basketball			F / M	F / M			I II III
Bowling			F / M	F / M			I II III
Cross Country			F / M	F / M			I II III
Fencing			F / M	F / M			I II III
Field Hockey			F / M	F / M			I II III
Golf			F / M	F / M			I II III
Gymnastics			F / M	F / M			I II III
LaCrosse			F / M	F / M			I II III
Riding			F / M	F / M			I II III
Soccer			F / M	F / M			I II III
Softball			F / M	F / M			I II III
Swimming/Diving			F / M	F / M			I II III
Tennis			F / M	F / M			I II III
Track/Field			F / M	F / M			I II III
Volleyball			F / M	F / M			I II III
Other _____			F / M	F / M			I II III
Other _____			F / M	F / M			I II III

FINANCIAL DATA

8. What are the total dollars spent by your institution for support of women's athletics in each of the following categories for 1977-78 and what is anticipated for 1978-79?

	1977-78	1978-79
A. Salaries of coaches and women's athletic director	$ _____	$ _____
B. Athletic Scholarships	_____	_____
C. Other Financial Aid (include federal and state aid and other scholarships)	_____	_____
D. Travel Expenditures	_____	_____
E. Equipment Expenditures	_____	_____
F. Operating Expenditures	_____	_____
TOTAL	$ _____	$ _____

9. Other scholarship information.

	1977-78	1978-79
Total number of full-time equivalent scholarships represented by the amount shown in Question 8.B.	_____	_____
Total number of athletes receiving scholarships from the amount shown under Question 8.B.	_____	_____
Total number of athletes receiving financial aid shown under Question 8.C.	_____	_____

Person Completing Questionnaire:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: _____

Appendix B

Student Survey on Women's Sports

A survey was conducted during the Spring Quarter, 1979, to determine the interest of Virginia Tech undergraduate students in women's sports. A questionnaire was mailed to a sample of 2,000 undergraduates. The sample consisted of 300 female students and 200 male students from each undergraduate class. Of the returned questionnaires, 247 (12.35 percent) were considered useable. (See Table 1.)

The questionnaire contained three main parts. The first part was designed to be answered by both males and females and inquired about the interest of students as spectators of women's sports. A list of 17 popular women's sports was provided and students were asked to check in one column the five women's sports they would be most likely to watch. In a second column, they were to check the five women's sports they would be least likely to watch.

Parts two and three of the questionnaire were constructed to determine the interest of female students in participating in sports activities. In part two, females were asked to check in one column the five sports in which they would be most likely to participate, and in a second column the five sports in which they would be least likely to participate. In part three, female students were asked to check each sport on the list that they had participated in competitively in high school or college. In all three parts of the questionnaire, students were provided spaces to write in and check other sports that they liked of disliked.

Results

The questionnaires were analyzed by scoring responses on a scale from 0 to 2. Responses were scored in the following manner:

Score	
0	Least Likely to Watch (Part One) or, Least Likely to Participate In (Part Two)
1	Neutral, or Not Checked Either As A Most or Least Liked Sport
2	Most Likely to Watch (Part One) or, Most Likely to Participate In (Part Two)

A mean score for each sport was then calculated and the sports were ranked in order of popularity.

The results of part one, concerning the interest of students as spectators of women's sports, are reported in Tables 2 and 3. The responses of female students are summarized in Table 2, and the responses of male students are summarized in Table 3.

In Table 4, a ranking of sports of interest to female students as participants can be observed. The order of this list varies somewhat from the order of the list in Table 2 where sports were checked as a spectator rather than as a possible participant.

Table 5 is a frequency list of the number of female respondents who have participated competitively in each sport.

Table 1

Classification of Participating Students

Class	Female	Male	Total
Freshman	54	21	75
Sophomore	43	25	68
Junior	37	20	57
Senior	27	20	47
TOTAL	161	86	247

Table 2

Interest of Female Students
As Spectators of Women's Sports

Sport	Mean Score	Rank	Frequency of Responses[1] (n=161)
Gymnastics	1.80	1	(M=134, L= 6, N= 21)
Swimming/Diving	1.63	2	(M=105, L= 3, N= 53)
Tennis	1.55	3	(M= 94, L= 6, N= 61)
Basketball	1.43	4	(M= 82, L= 13, N= 66)
Soccer	1.29	5	(M= 53, L= 7, N=101)
Softball	1.28	6	(M= 61, L= 16, N= 84)
Riding (Equitation)	1.26	7	(M= 66, L= 24, N= 71)
Volleyball	1.18	8	(M= 48, L= 19, N= 94)
Track and Field	1.12	9	(M= 47, L= 28, N= 86)
Field Hockey	1.04	10	(M= 40, L= 34, N= 87)
LaCrosse	0.89	11	(M= 21, L= 39, N=101)
Fencing	0.65	12	(M= 17, L= 73, N= 71)
Cross Country	0.50	13	(M= 8, L= 89, N= 64)
Archery	0.39	14	(M= 12, L=110, N= 39)
Bowling	0.38	15	(M= 6, L=106, N= 49)
Badminton	0.37	16	(M= 1, L=102, N= 58)
Golf	0.31	17	(M= 6, L=117, N= 38)
Other (Not Ranked):			
Wrestling			(M= 1)
Racquetball			(M= 1)
Table Tennis			(M= 1)

[1] M= Number most likely to watch
L= Number least likely to watch
N= Number not checking this sport

Table 3

Interest of Male Students
As Spectators of Women's Sports

Sport	Mean Score	Rank	Frequency of Responses[1] (n=86)
Gymnastics	1.80	1.0	(M= 71, L= 2, N= 13)
Swimming/Diving	1.63	2.0	(M= 54, L= 0, N= 32)
Tennis	1.60	3.0	(M= 53, L= 1, N= 32)
Basketball	1.57	4.0	(M= 52, L= 3, N= 31)
Softball	1.41	5.5	(M= 38, L= 3, N= 45)
Volleyball	1.41	5.5	(M= 38, L= 3, N= 45)
Soccer	1.09	7.0	(M= 17, L= 9, N= 60)
Field Hockey	1.05	8.5	(M= 20, L= 16, N= 50)
Track and Field	1.05	8.5	(M= 20, L= 16, N= 50)
LaCrosse	0.84	10.0	(M= 12, L= 25, N= 49)
Riding (Equitation)	0.74	11.0	(M= 16, L= 38, N= 32)
Fencing	0.69	12.0	(M= 9, L= 36, N= 41)
Cross Country	0.63	13.0	(M= 8, L= 40, N= 38)
Golf	0.50	14.0	(M= 6, L= 49, N= 31)
Archery	0.38	15.0	(M= 5, L= 58, N= 23)
Bowling	0.33	16.0	(M= 2, L= 60, N= 24)
Badminton	0.27	17.0	(M= 1, L= 64, N= 21)
Other (Not Ranked):			
Rugby			(M= 1)
Football			(L= 1)
Wrestling			(L= 1)

[1] M= Number most likely to watch
L= Number least likely to watch
N= Number not checking this sport

Table 4

A Ranking of Sports of Interest
To Virginia Tech Women Students As Participants

Sport	Mean Score	Rank	Frequency of Responses[1] (n=161)
Volleyball	1.57	1.0	(M= 99, L= 8, N= 54)
Softball	1.43	2.0	(M= 89, L= 20, N= 52)
Tennis	1.42	3.0	(M= 84, L= 17, N= 60)
Soccer	1.25	4.0	(M= 55, L= 14, N= 92)
Swimming/Diving	1.22	5.0	(M= 63, L= 27, N= 71)
Basketball	1.05	6.0	(M= 50, L= 42, N= 69)
Track and Field	1.03	7.0	(M= 53, L= 48, N= 60)
Field Hockey	1.01	8.5	(M= 45, L= 44, N= 72)
Riding (Equitation)	1.01	8.5	(M= 44, L= 43, N= 74)
Bowling	0.96	10.0	(M= 42, L= 49, N= 70)
Gymnastics	0.95	11.0	(M= 46, L= 54, N= 61)
Badminton	0.94	12.0	(M= 31, L= 40, N= 90)
Archery	0.75	13.0	(M= 31, L= 71, N= 59)
LaCrosse	0.70	14.0	(M= 14, L= 62, N= 85)
Fencing	0.61	15.0	(M= 18, L= 80, N= 63)
Golf	0.54	16.0	(M= 15, L= 89, N= 57)
Cross Country	0.48	17.0	(M= 14, L= 97, N= 50)
Other (Not Ranked):			
Racquetball			(M= 4)
Water Polo			(M= 1)

[1] M= Number most likely to participate
L= Number least likely to participate
N= Number not checking this sport

Table 5

Female Respondents Who Have Participated Competitively In Sports Activities

Sport	Number Who Have Participated (n=161)	Percent of Respondents (161=100%)
Softball	70	43.48
Volleyball	53	32.92
Basketball	47	29.19
Track and Field	43	26.71
Tennis	33	20.50
Swimming/Diving	30	18.63
Field Hockey	26	16.15
Soccer	25	15.53
Gymnastics	22	13.66
Badminton	13	8.07
Bowling	13	8.07
Riding (Equitation)	13	8.07
Archery	9	5.59
Golf	5	3.11
Cross Country	4	2.48
Fencing	4	2.48
LaCrosse	3	1.86
Other:		
Racquetball	2	--
Flag Football	2	--
Table Tennis	1	--
Karate	1	--

STUDENT SURVEY ON WOMEN'S SPORTS

This survey is being conducted by the University to determine the interest of Virginia Tech students in women's sports. We would like responses from both men and women to questions (1) and (2). Only female students should answer question (3) concerning participation in women's sports.

Please return the completed questionnaire by May 25, 1979. The questionnaire is designed to be folded, stapled or taped, and returned in the CAMPUS MAIL to Office of Institutional Research, 315 Burruss Hall, CAMPUS. Boxes for depositing on-campus mail are located in Squires Student Center and Dietrick Dining Hall, as well as in most academic buildings and department offices. Thank you for your cooperation. The results of this survey will be available in the Office of Institutional Research this summer.

(1) Please check your status.

(a) Class: Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____

(b) Sex: Male _____ Female _____

(2) Spectator Sports. (All students answer.)

(3) Participation in Women's Sports. (Only female students answer.)

Women's Sports I Would Be Most Likely To Watch (Check five.)	Women's Sports I Would Be Least Likely To Watch (Check five.)	SPORTS	I Would Be Most Likely To Participate In (Check five.)	I Would Be Least Likely To Participate In (Check five.)	I Have Participated In Competitively In High School or College (Check all that apply.)
_____	_____	Archery	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Badminton	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Basketball	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Bowling	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Cross Country	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Fencing	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Field Hockey	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Golf	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Gymnastics	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	LaCrosse	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Riding (Equitation)	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Soccer	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Softball	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Swimming/Diving	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Tennis	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Track/Field	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Volleyball	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	Other _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____